GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6780
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
OPENING OF TETULIA CORRIDOR
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to negotiate with Bangladesh Government to open up the Tetulia Corridor through the territory of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposed corridor was earlier planned to connect Tetulia in Dinajpur and Chawalhati in Jalpaiguri through Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the current status of the said proposal and the time by when the said corridor is likely to be opened; and

(e) the benefits which are likely to accrue to both the countries as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (c) Government of India have taken up the opening of the Tetulia corridor, between Chopra in North Dinajpur district of West Bengal to Maynaguri in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal through Bangladesh territory, with the Government of Bangladesh.

(d) The response of Government of Bangladesh is awaited.

(f) The opening of the corridor would be in consonance with Article VIII of the India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement 1980 which states that `The two governments agree to make mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways, railways and roadways for commerce between the two countries and for passage of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other`. The opening of the Tetulia corridor would also reduce the travel distance between the two points and thereby the time and expenditure involved in the transport of goods and people. It could also facilitate trade between India and Bangladesh.